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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/078,820

02/19/2002

Deborah Wenzel

3596.02-3

7625

7590

08/04/2004

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, JERRY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1764

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/078,820	WENZEL, DEBORAH	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jerry D. Johnson	1764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 1764

Initially it is noted that page 1 of applicant's amendment and response pursuant to 35 CFR 1.121 includes the heading:

Application Serial No.: 10/027,902

Substitute Amendment and Response Dated June 25, 2004

PATENT

3596.02-3

The reference to Serial No. 10/027,902 is incorrect. Applicant is requested to make the appropriate correction in any future correspondence.

Applicant's election of Claims 1-28 in the paper filed June 29, 2004 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 30-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The independent claims, claims 30, 40 and 46 are directed to fuel compositions containing combustible liquid fuel and an additive wherein the combustible liquid fuel is "selected from the group consisting of" or "selected from" "diesel fuel, kerosene, heating oil, coal slurry oil and distilled vegetable oil", yet the claims also recite "the additive when combined with mixing with diesel fuel". Accordingly, it is unclear what the claimed composition contains.

Art Unit: 1764

Claims 40 and 46 contain improper Markush language, i.e., claims 40 and 46 improperly recite "selected from" as opposed to "selected from the group consisting of". Accordingly, it is unclear if the claims are restricted to the recited elements of the "group" or whether the claim may contain other, non-recited liquid fuels.

Claims 30-32, 34-59 are rendered indefinite by the recitation "that certain ethylene oxide condensation and ethylene oxide esterification products are completely eliminated", i.e., the claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim which compounds are excluded.

In claim 33 it is unclear how the alcohol can be defined as ethanol and also contain "between 0.5%-25% by volume of ethanol".

Claim 39 improperly depends from canceled claim 3.

In claim 57, the term "such as vegetable oil" is indefinite. (It is noted that claim 30, from which claim 57 depends, recite "distilled vegetable oil").

Numerous claims contain incorrect or misspelled words. For example, claim 46 contains the phrase "selected form the group consisting of" (line 5) and the terms: wherein (line 12), when (line 16), "10% (line 17) and the (line 18). Applicant should carefully review all of the claims for incorrect and misspelled terms.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Art Unit: 1764

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 30-59 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,074 B2. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because while not of the same scope, the claims of the instant application and the 6,348,074 B2 patent are directed to combustible fuel compositions which may comprise the same components, i.e., diesel fuel and additive.

Claims 29-59 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 30-59 of copending Application No. 10/027,902. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because while not of the same scope, the claims of the instant application and the 10/027,902 application are directed to fuel compositions which may comprise the same components, i.e., kerosene, heating oil, coal slurry or distilled vegetable oil and additive.

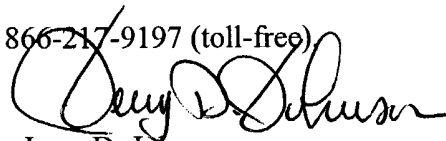
This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry D. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1448. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-3:30, M-F, alternate Fridays off.

Art Unit: 1764

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)



Jerry D. Johnson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1764

jdj